

24176.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Tadashi HAYAMIZU et al.

Group Art Unit: 2852

Appln. No. : 10/654,880

Examiner:

Filed : September 5, 2003

For : IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following document to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-193159, published on July 21, 1999, together with an English language Abstract of the same.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and cite the patent document. A copy of the above-noted document is attached and has been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate space on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of this document.

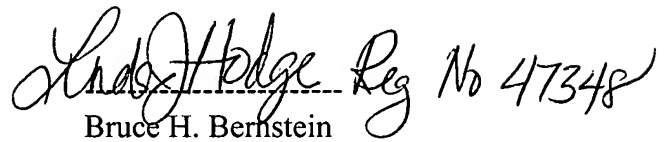
Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not yet issued in the instant application, and thus, no fee is necessary to ensure consideration of this statement. However, if an Office Action has issued and is crossing in the mail with this statement, the Commissioner is

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hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0089 any fee necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted materials.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tadashi HAYAMIZU et al.

  
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December 11, 2003  
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